

Raspberry

History

Red raspberries have been growing throughout Europe for centuries. It is believed that they originated in Turkey and spread throughout Mediterranean Europe. The Romans took raspberries throughout their empire – including to Britain.

In the 16th century, people of England started cultivating raspberries. However, wild raspberries continued to grow throughout the country and were harvested and used.

Over time, superior strains were identified and cultivated into the plants that we still see today.

Raspberries grow best in places that have cool summers, mild winters and a rain-free harvesting season. About 90 percent of all raspberries in the US are grown in Oregon, Washington, and California. However, Wisconsin-grown raspberries can be found throughout the late summer.



Varieties

When explorers and settlers arrived in North America, they discovered a black raspberry growing. The black raspberry was firmer, contained more seeds, and was not as sweet as the red raspberry of Europe. Settlers planted red raspberry seeds that were brought with them. In 1771, the British started shipping red raspberry plants to New York. Black raspberries were not cultivated until the 1800s. Today, they remain a less popular variety of raspberry.

Fun Facts

- Raspberries can be red, black, purple, and golden in color
- Black raspberries are different from blackberries
- Raspberries should not be washed until immediately before eating
- Raspberries are the most delicate berry because they have a hollow core
- There are over 200 species of raspberries across the world
- Raspberries are a member of the rose family
- Raspberry plants can live for up to 10 years
- Raspberries are made up of many connecting, individual sections of fruit, each with its own seed that surrounds a central core



This institution is an equal opportunity provider.